

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4498
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
EXPORT PROSPECTS OF TEA
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any consistent set back has been noticed in the export prospects for Indian tea to Germany on the grounds of involvement of child labour in tea plantations, processing units and higher level of chemical pesticide residues in comparison to the maximum residue level (MRL) permissible under the German laws;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the quality of tea to increase the export of tea to Germany?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c): The trend of exports to Germany do not indicate that there has been setback in exports on these grounds. However, in order to ensure the quality and protect the brand equity of Indian tea, Govt. notified a new Tea(Distribution and Export) Control Order 2005 prescribing strict quality norms for tea. It stipulates that all teas, whether imported or exported, are required to conform to the specifications stipulated in the order. This empowers the officials of the Tea Board or any inspection agency duly approved/authorized by the Tea Board or any inspection agency duly approved/authorized by the Tea Board to draw samples from tea consignments for purpose of ascertaining their conformity with the quality standards stipulated for tea in the said Order.